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REMARKS OF ELIHU ROOT ON UN-
VEILING A MEMORIAL WINDOW TO
THE HONORABLE JOHN HAY AT THE
KENESETH ISRAEL, PHILADELPHIA, DE-
CEMBER 2, 1906.

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27 Nov

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*Remarks of Elihu Root on unveiling a memorial
window to the Honorable John Hay at The
Keneseth Israel, Philadelphia, December 2,
1906.*

Sometimes in John Hay's later years, among the familiar White House scenes of his youth, some incident would evoke a memory of the earlier days and give it to his friends clad in the felicitous and charming expression of which he was a master.

I remember that once, as we stood by the door of the old Cabinet room, he spoke of the dark and dreadful time when Lincoln was bearing the burden of the Civil War and was feeling his way among innumerable obstacles to his great conclusion of emancipation for the slave; and he told how the great President used often in the dead of night to gain relief from sleepless weariness by rising and seeking the chamber of the young assistant private

secretary, and sitting on the edge of the boy's bed reading aloud to him from some favorite book.

As the story was told we could see the tall, gaunt form in white pacing down the long corridor in which we stood, and the rugged, careworn face, seeking sympathy in thoughts that might lift his soul above the turmoil of the day's doubt and distress.

Doubtless the cold words on the printed page lacked power to beat back the invading throng of troubling thoughts, and life was given them by the finely sensitive appreciation and responsive sympathy in the noble, ingenuous youth.

The instinct of Lincoln's genius divined a kindred spirit; and there in the silent watches of the night and in daily companionship was molded and inspired the character of our friend.

The youth grew in years and in authority. His power of intellect and of heart made him in his turn great among men. He lived the noble life and he fought the good fight as Lincoln would have wished; and through the

long series of the passing years the spirit of the great Emancipator—the strong, the just, the compassionate—has wrought mightily in the works of his great disciple, for justice and mercy and freedom and peace to the oppressed and forsaken of the earth.

So, in this temple of our God, who hath made all men in His image, we unveil a memorial set up by grateful hands to the honor of one who also gave his life for his country and for humanity.

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